

Date: 04 March 2021

Title: Report Item 7 – Business in Progress

By: K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

Purpose: To provide an update on progress since the February meeting

Recommendations: a) To note the progress report

b) To consider whether to order parish poll cards for the election on 6th May, at an additional cost of approx. £1,258.18

a) **The following items are matters of report arising from the February council meeting:**

- **May 2021 elections – publicity material** has been published on the council website and sent direct to residents via the council's Residents' Alerts emails, and via the Residents' Association's circulation list. There are three vacancies to fill on the parish council.
- **Consultation on Craft Market in the village car park** – Wealden District Council who own and manage the car park and may licence such events have been advised of the reservations expressed by the parish council and by the Gilbert Estate
- **Donation of wildflower seeds** – the parish council has received a quantity of wildflower seeds kindly donated by the Rotary Club. These can be sown in multiple locations across the parish to enhance the environment, and a note of thanks has been sent to the Club.

b) **Parish council by-election 6th May 2021** - The Electoral Services Department at Wealden District Council have asked whether the parish council wants poll cards to be sent to electors. Due to the complexity of the 2021 polls it is not possible to include any wording about the parish by-elections on the combined Police Crime Commissioner/County Council poll card. Therefore, if the parish would like a parish poll card to be issued, they would need to be produced separately. If they are required, WDC would arrange for them to be sent once nominations have closed on 8 April 2021 and when it is known if the parish election is contested. The cost of the poll cards would be one of the items recharged to the parish council. The cost would be 20p per card (enveloped letter) plus 2nd class postage. The budget of £1,200 the council has allocated for a contested by-election does not include payment for poll cards. The additional cost of printing 1463 poll cards would be £292.60, and the cost of second class postage would be £965.58, total = an additional £1,258.18. The parish council has not previously ordered poll cards.